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The Life of BABY ANIMALS IN PICTURE STRIP

by GEORGE F. MEADE and DON NELSON



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THE LIFE OF BABY ANIMALS



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IN PICTURE STRIP



By *reuevic*

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and

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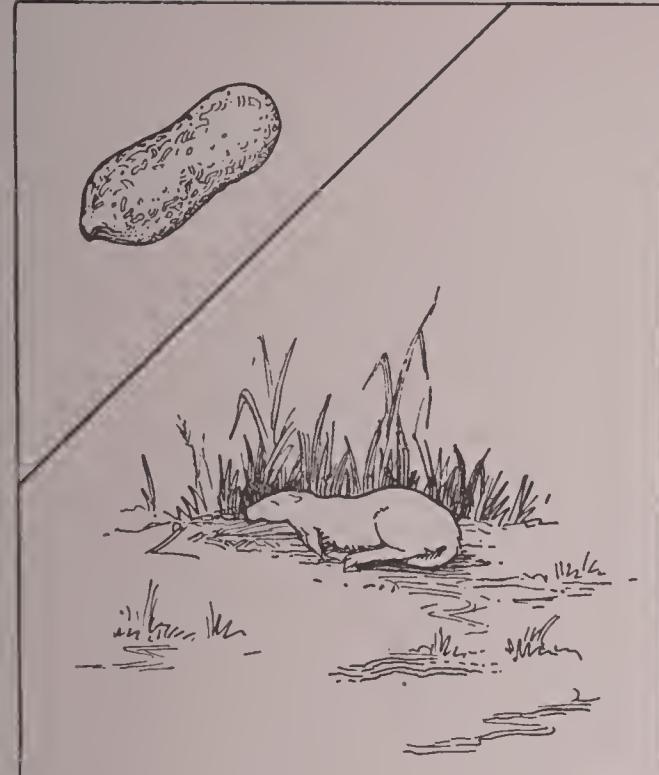
Fascinating Babies

IN NATURE there is one thing that never fails to hold the attention of grown-ups and children alike—Baby Animals. Anyone who has ever visited a zoo or a circus remembers the crowd that continually surrounded the cage where a wizened little baby monkey clung desperately to its mother—or the lion cub that awkwardly landed on his ear as he clumsily dashed after a wind-blown leaf. Even the sight of a litter of newly born domestic pigs brings forth exclamations of “Aren’t they just simply darling!” and “Too cute for words!”

Taking advantage of this interest in baby animals, I thought that a picture book on the subject, accurately portraying little known but actual happenings in animal life, would have a double value—it would be both educational and amusing.

I am sure my readers will agree that Don Nelson has caught, in his pictures, the spirit that animates these interesting babies in their every-day life of play and danger, of experiences so like those of human babies.

GEORGE F. MORSE

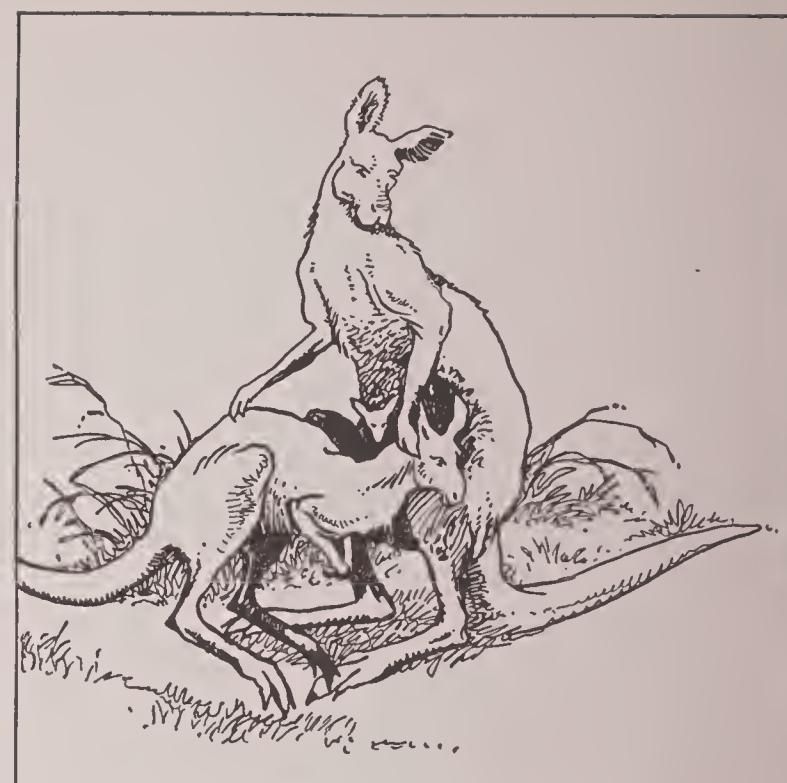


The Tiny Kangaroo Baby

When the baby kangaroo was born he had no fur, and was blind. He was only as large as a peanut, but his mother stood four feet high.

For seven months he lived in his mother's pouch. Finally he put his head out and looked around at the great world about him. Then he crawled out.

He would crawl out and play around sometimes, but at the first sign of danger would jump back into the pouch again.

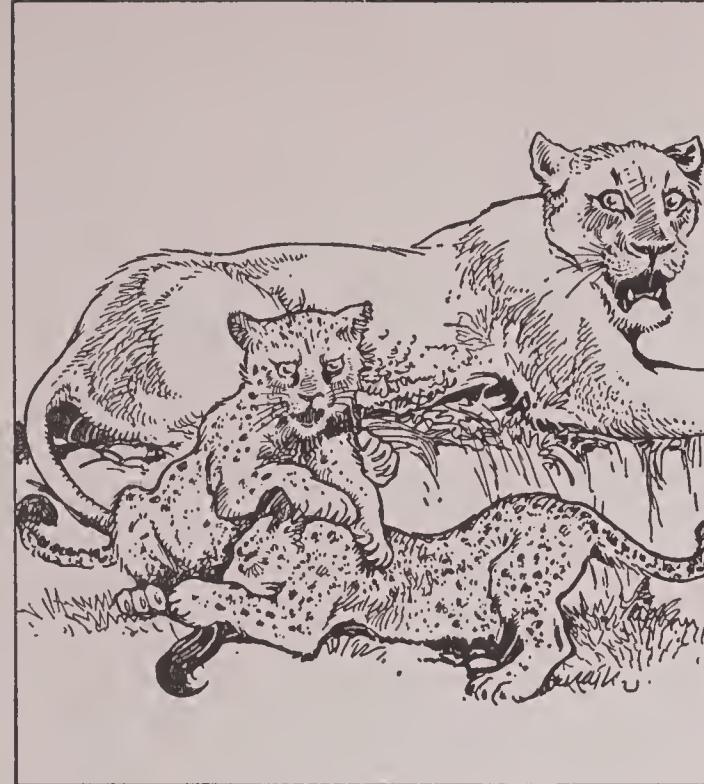


Learns to Take Care of Himself

His mother would lean back on her tail and fight off the wild dogs with her powerful hind legs if she thought they were trying to harm her baby.

As he grew older he tested his strength by leaping and bounding over the bushes and ditches as kangaroos can easily do, with their long hind legs.

But when his baby brother was born he had to learn to take care of himself, for his mother would cuff him away if he came too close and teased the new baby.



The Playful Lion Cubs

When the cubs were quite little they would leap at anything moving, just as kittens play with a leaf the wind blows about.

Sometimes they would play the same way with their mother's tail as she watched them tumbling around on the ground.

But if they were too rough and bit her tail too hard, she would lose her patience and warn them to stop by a slap from her big paw.

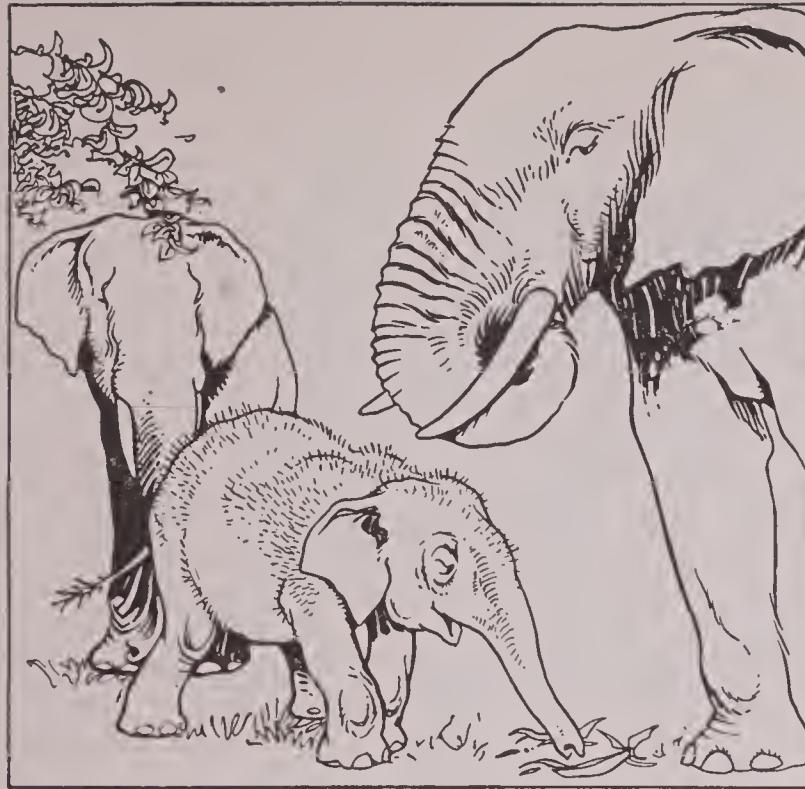
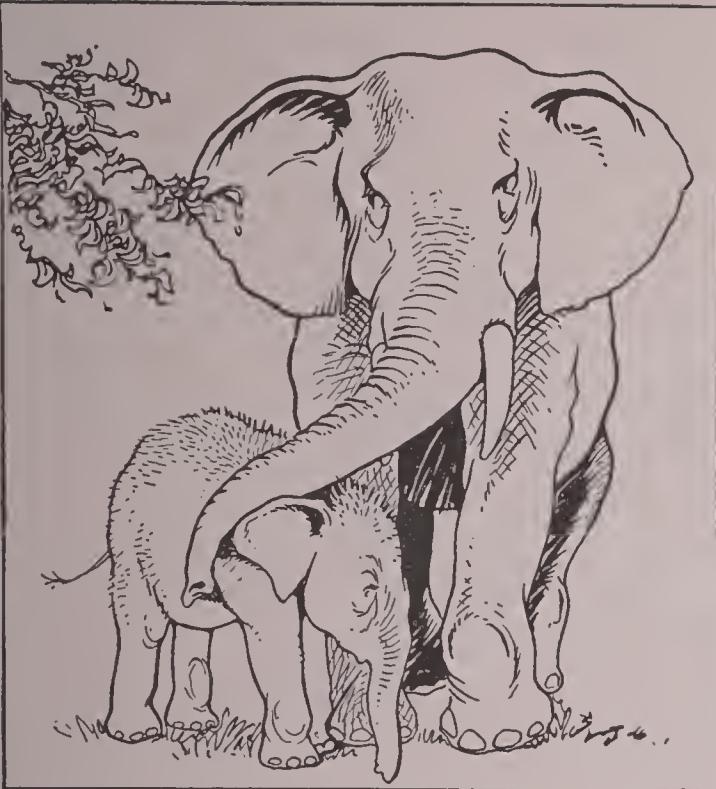


Are Washed Like Other Babies

One day one of the cubs found a nice fresh bone hidden in the grass and had a wonderful time growling over it.

But his brother quarreled with him and while they were fighting one of his sisters crept up quietly and stole it away.

When the rough play was over the mother would hold each cub down with her paw and clean them with her tongue.

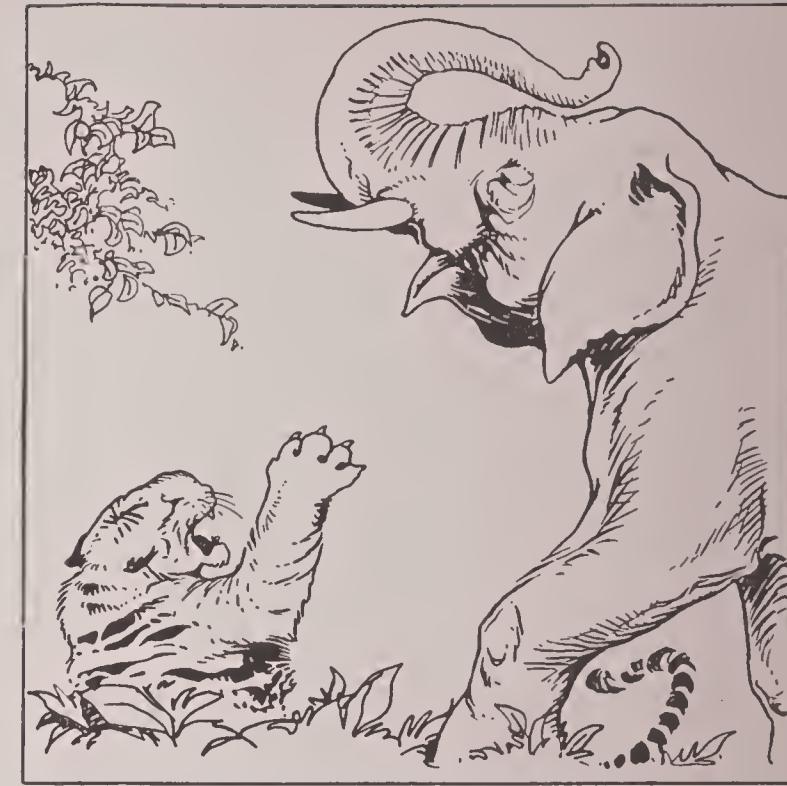
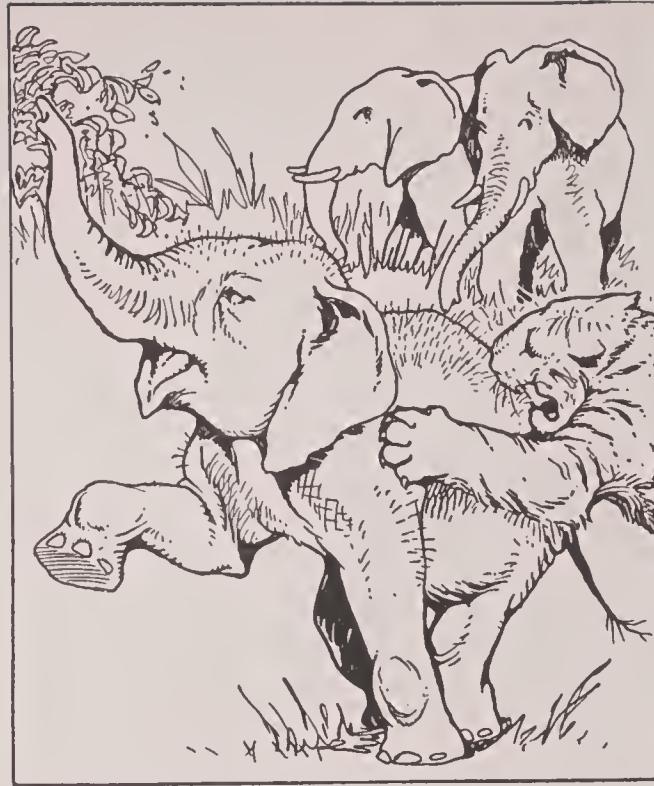
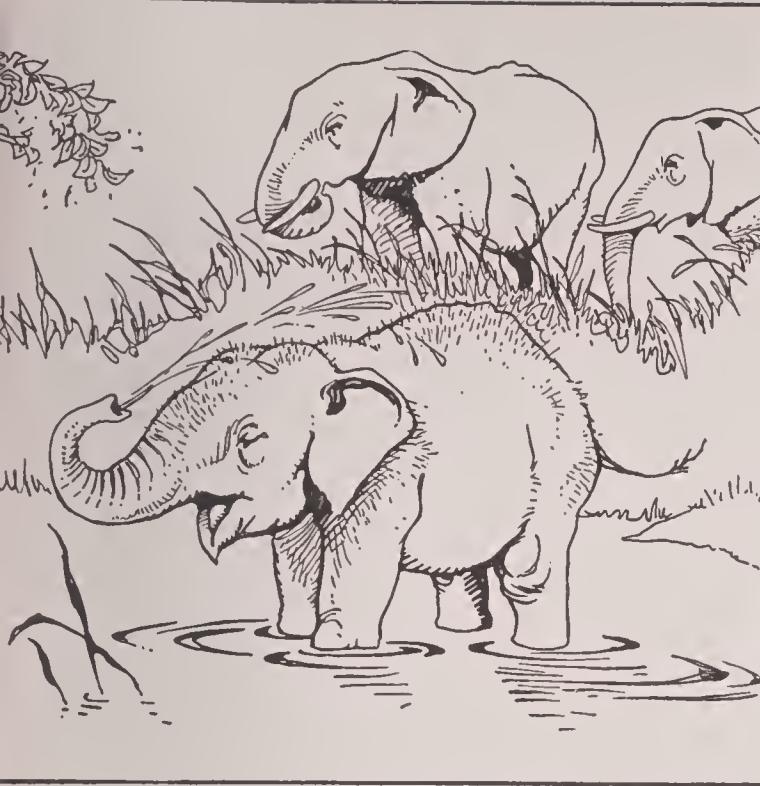


The Chunky Little Elephant

The baby elephant was covered with fuzzy hair and weighed about two hundred pounds when he was born.

Sometimes he would steal food from the other elephants, who did not dare to touch him if his mother was close by.

One day his mother lost her patience with him and had to give him a smart slap with her trunk to make him behave.



Has a Narrow Escape

That day he stayed at the river, squirting water over his back and enjoying himself after the other elephants left.

But a big tiger sprang out of the jungle where he was hiding and leaped on the baby elephant, who cried out for his mother.

The mother heard the baby's squeals and rushed back, and she knocked the tiger to the ground with one blow of her great trunk.

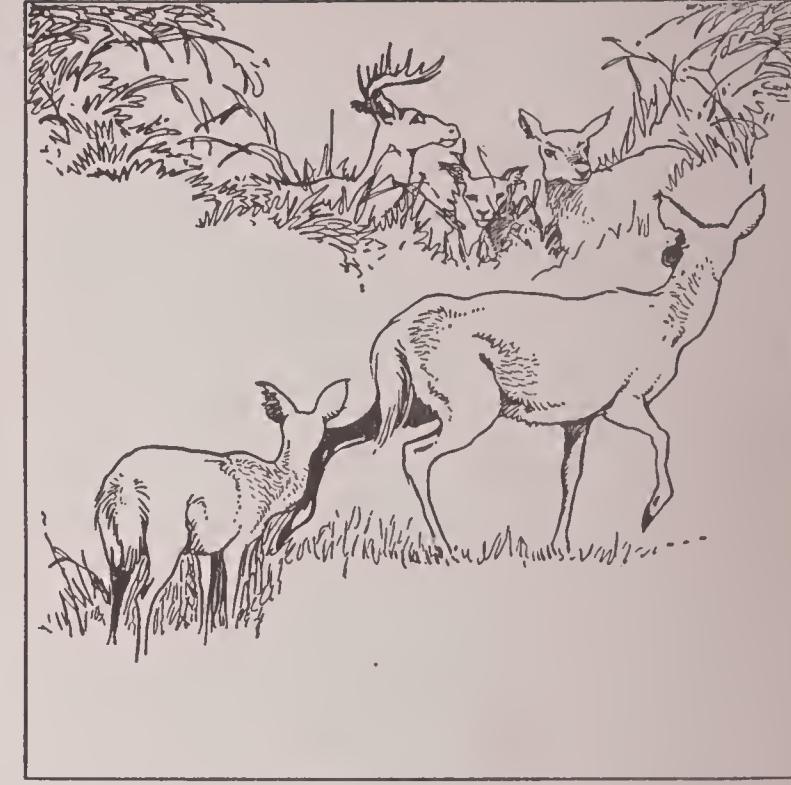
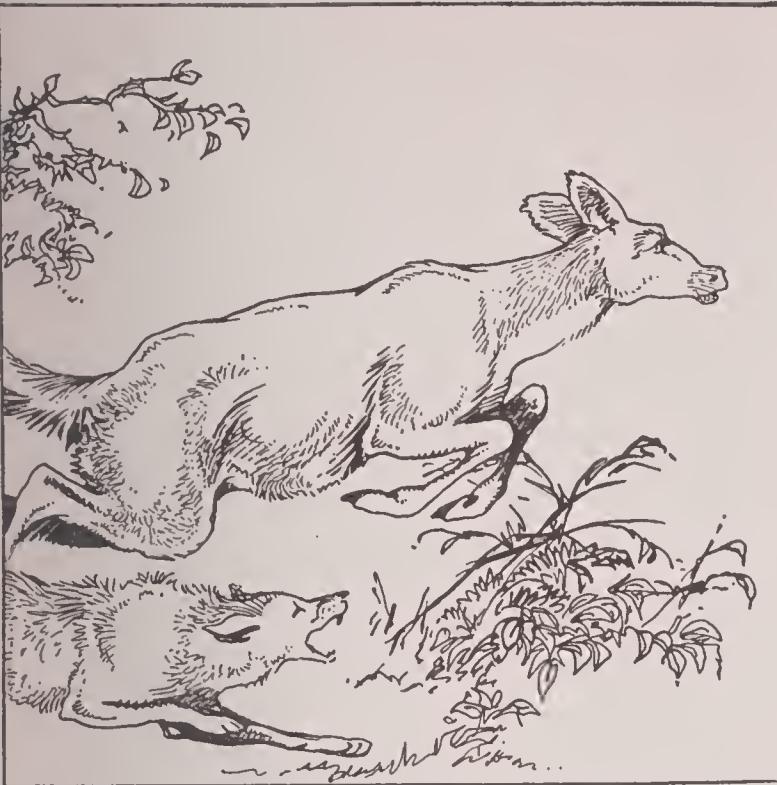


The Spotted Baby Fawn

The baby fawn was so awkward when it was born that it could hardly stand on its long legs.

His mother would hide him under a bush where his white spotted coat looked like sunlight through the leaves.

Sometimes a mountain lion would hide above the forest path, but the mother's keen scent would tell her of the danger in time.

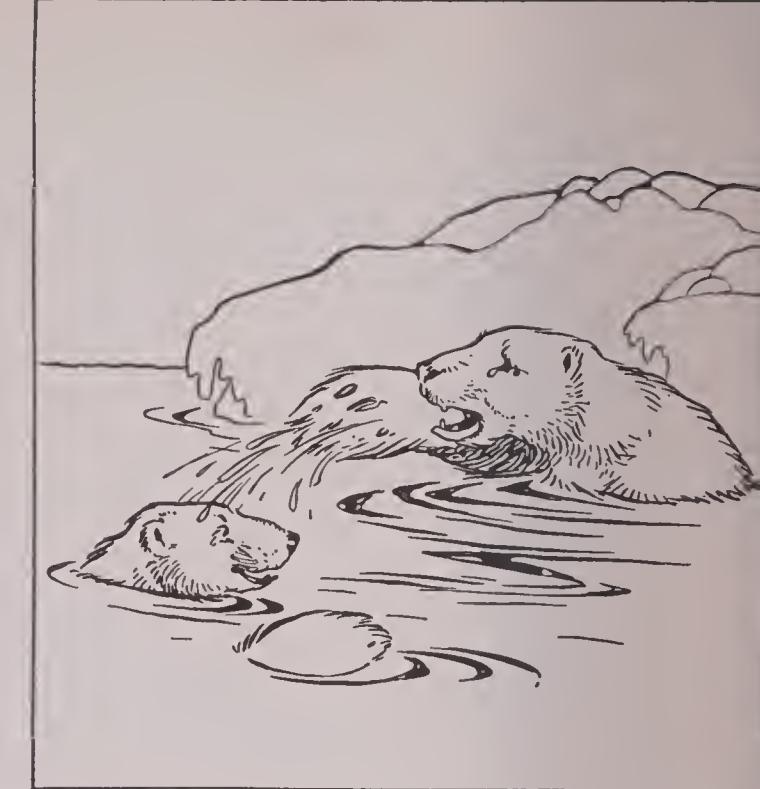


Is Saved by His Mother

Once two wolves chased them, but the mother led the wolves away from the place where the fawn was safely hidden.

When they were far from the fawn the mother turned on the wolves and killed one of them with her sharp hoofs.

In the autumn they joined the rest of the herd and lived with them all winter, and by spring the fawn could take care of himself.



The Little White Polar Bears

The baby polar bears were born in a snow cave. They were only as big as a squirrel and the mother hugged them close to her.

When the snow melted in the spring they came out and had a good time playing with each other like little puppies.

They took to the water like ducks, and no matter how cold it was their thick fur kept them warm while they were swimming.

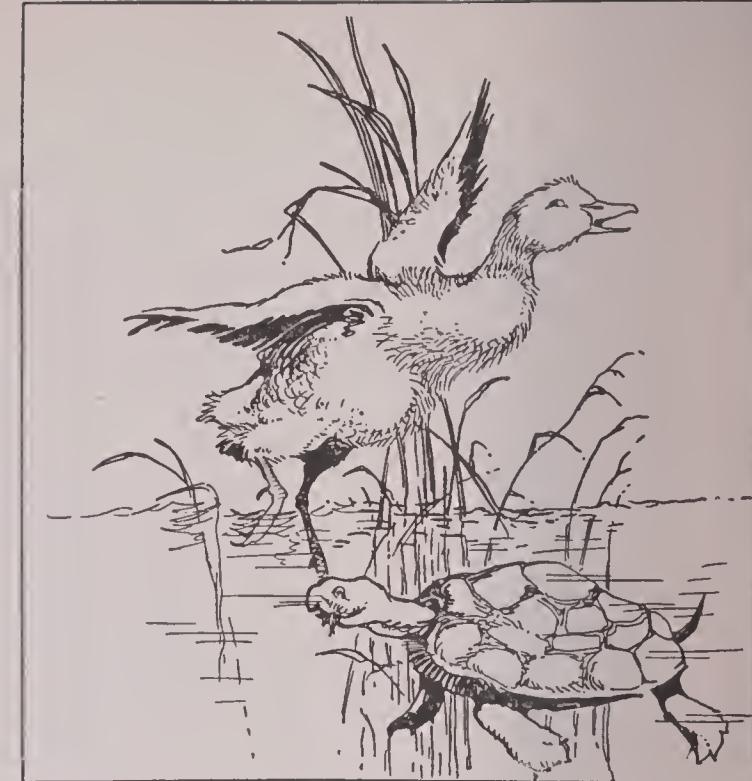
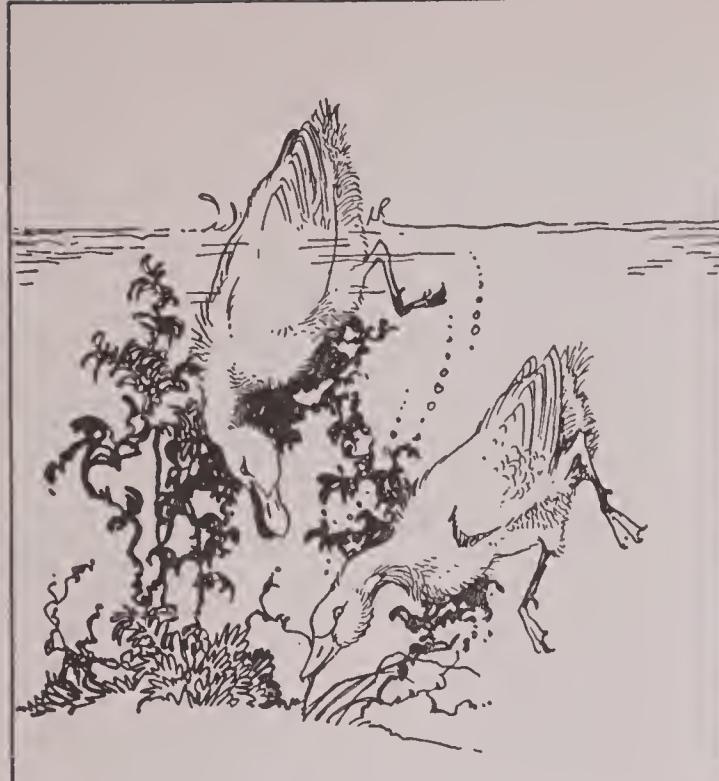


Must Hunt for Their Food

Soon they learned to catch fish that were swimming near the ice cakes, by scooping them out of the water with their paws.

Their mother tried to teach them to crawl carefully and quietly up to a seal that was resting near a hole in the ice.

But they were so awkward and clumsy that when they jumped for the seal it got away by diving back into the water.

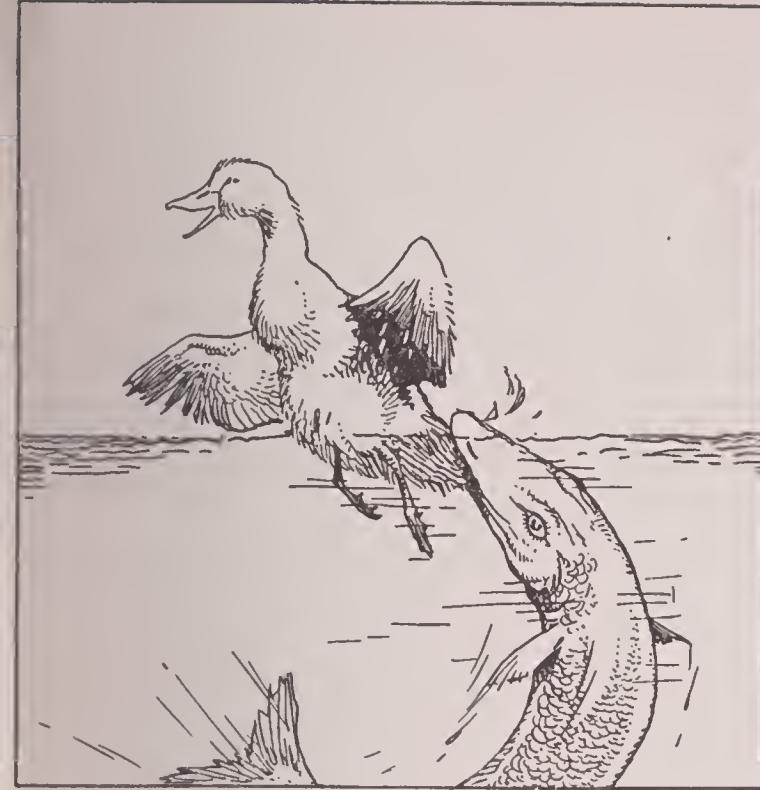


The Fuzzy Wild Ducklings

As soon as they came out of the eggs the ducklings rushed for the water and went swimming as if they had taken lessons for years.

They soon learned that they must dive to the bottom of the pond to get most of their food out of the soft mud.

The ducklings found that they had many enemies, for one day a large snapping turtle came up silently and pulled one of them down.



Grow Up and Fly to the South

The brood of ducklings had other enemies too, for some of the large fish in the pond also tried to catch them.

The mother duck had keen eyes and when she spied a hawk she would hurry them into the reeds where they would be safe.

Finally when the cold weather came they were large enough to join the flocks that came flying by on their way to the south.

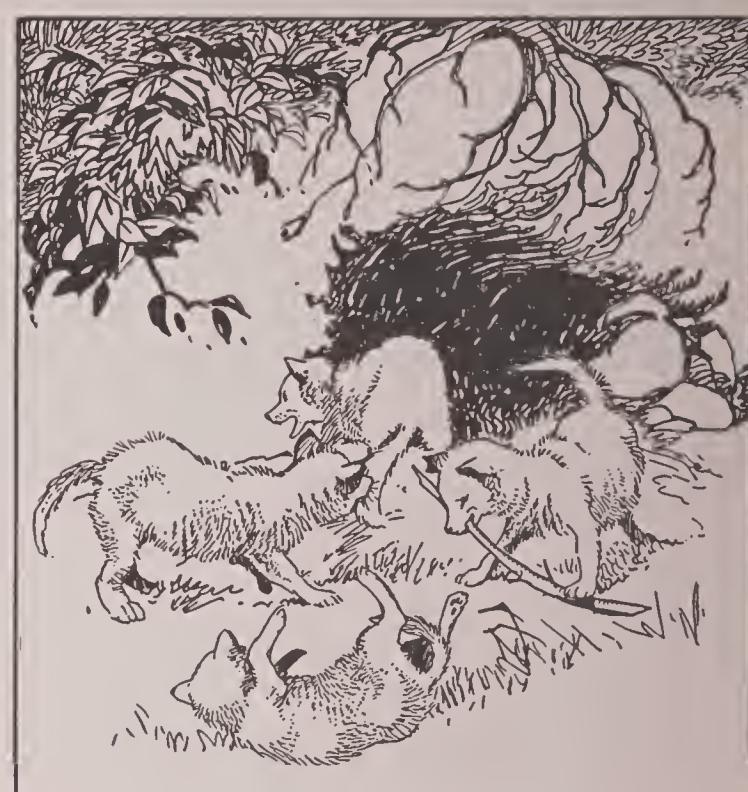
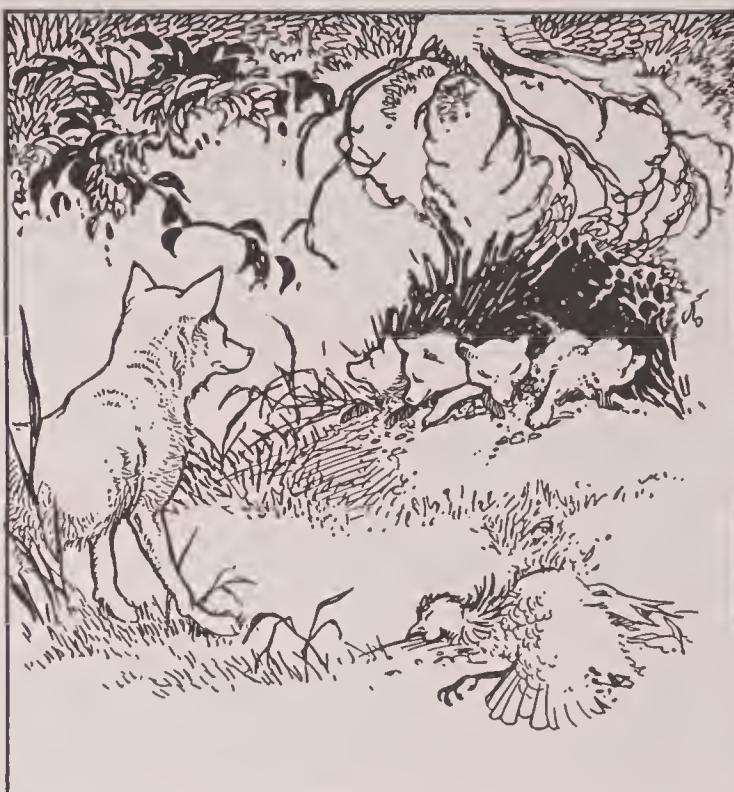


The Furry Fox Puppies

The baby foxes were born in a den that the mother had dug in a steep hillside. It was warm and snug and hidden away from sight.

Every morning they woke up at daylight and waited at the mouth of the burrow for the mother to bring their breakfast.

When she came with a fat hen she had stolen from a farmer's coop they would snarl and growl over it while the mother watched.



Must Hide While Their Mother Is Away

If she heard something coming she would cry out to them and they would dash for the hole as fast as they could go.

They would stay there until the mother came back and whined to them that the danger was over, and they could finish breakfast.

When breakfast was over they had a nap and then would come out and play in the warm sun in front of the burrow.



The Baby Chimpanzee

For the first two or three months after he was born the baby Chimpanzee spent his time clinging to his mother.

If he climbed too far his mother would reach up and pull him back to a safe place beside her on the bough of the tree.

He would pick up food and slyly put it into his mouth, but his mother would open his mouth to see what he was eating.



Runs Away from His Mother

One day he wandered away by himself and had a good time in the tree tops swinging about from one limb to another.

But when he came to a great python coiled on a bough he rushed home as fast as he could go, chattering at a great rate.

And then his mother spanked him as a warning not to get into trouble again by running so far away from home.



The Bright-Eyed Little Raccoons

One spring morning the baby raccoons put their heads out of the hollow in the big chestnut tree where they were born.

Their first trip to the ground was a shaky one as they backed down the trunk clinging for dear life to the bark.

The mother took them down to the brook and showed them how to catch the sly trout with a quick dart of her paw.

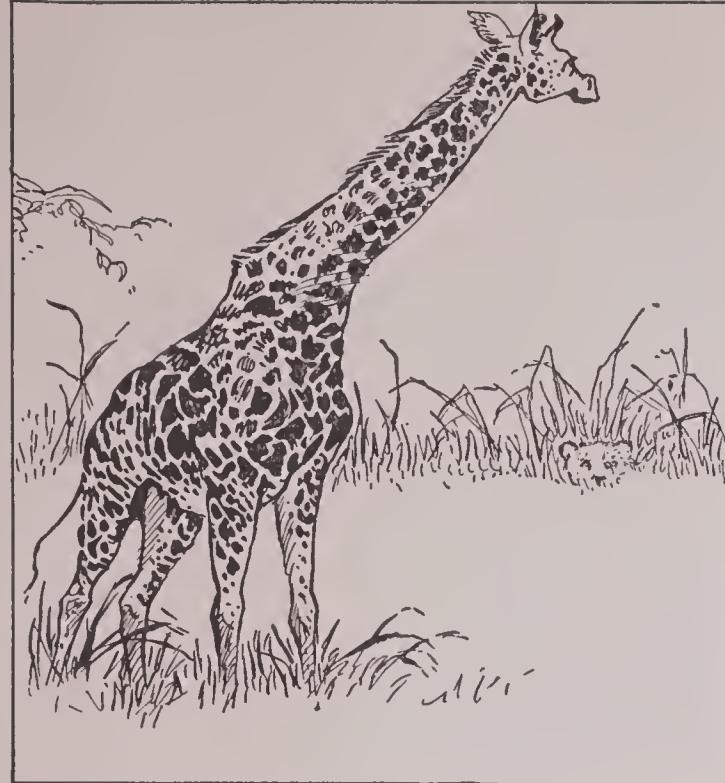


Are Taught to Wash Their Food

As they walked down the bank the mother spied a steel trap in the water and carefully led her little babies around it.

As they left the bank of the stream the mother pounced on a sleepy bird that did not get out of the way quickly enough.

The youngsters took every bit of food down to the brook and washed it in the water, just the way the mother did.

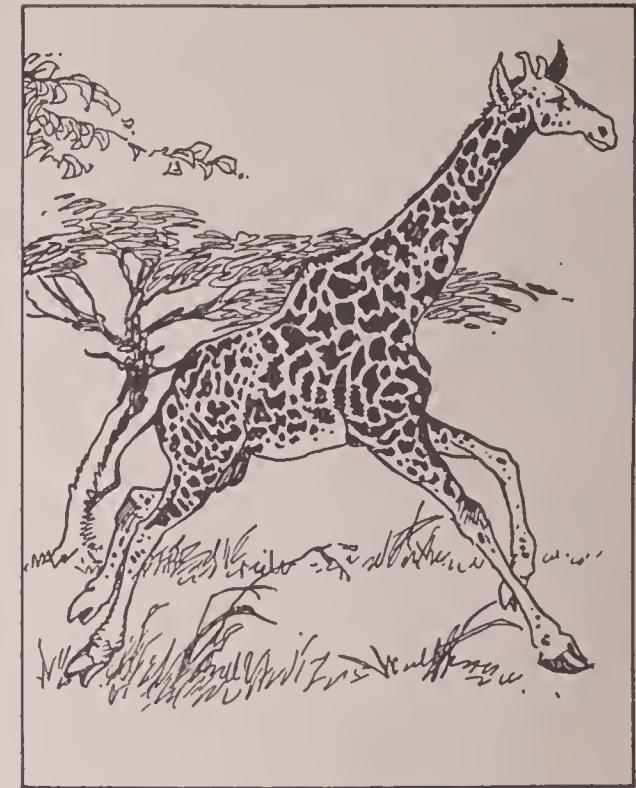
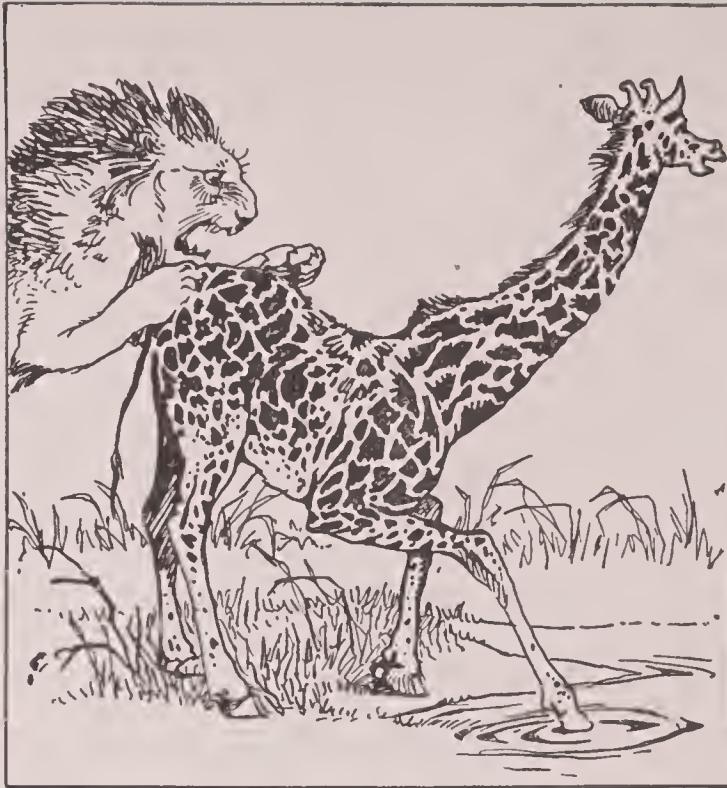
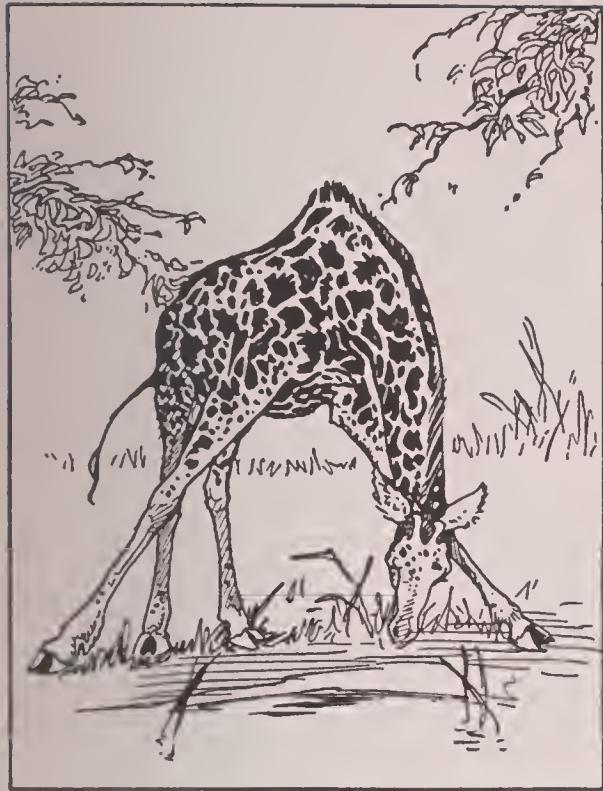


The Spotted Giraffe Baby

Like his mother, the baby giraffe has a great long neck so he can feed on the tender buds in the tree tops.

His long neck helped him to look a long way and spy out dangers like the lion creeping up in the grass.

Every day the giraffes would go to the water hole to drink, sometimes with the other animals.



Escapes from a Hungry Lion

When the baby giraffe drank he had to spread his long legs wide apart.

A lion was lying in wait for him one day and rushed at him just as he put his head down to drink.

But the baby giraffe got to his feet, and his long legs soon carried him home.





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